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## SOVIET INTELLIGENCE SERVICE AND MORALE FACTORS

## A. MORALE FACTORS

1. Officers and voluntary EM reenlistees (Sverksrochniki) of the MVD Border Guard Troops were permitted to have their families with them at their garrisons. Other EM were not permitted to do this. Source had no information on dependent policy in the Soviet Zone of Germany.

2. In outlying border areas, EM had no free time on Sundays or holidays. Duties and training were the same seven days a week.

In headquarters units, stationed in towns, EM had Saturday afternoon and Sunday free, and a small percentage received passes to go into town on Saturday and Sunday evenings. At all times, officers had to get permission from their COs before going home or to town during off duty time.

Contact with the local population was frowned upon for fear that the troops would become friendly with the natives and relax vigilance. Political officers constantly warned the troops against "spies, saboteurs, and subversive elements" among the natives. While not prohibited, fraternization was frowned upon, because some officer or EM might take up with a woman in the pay of hostile countries and betray state secrets or enable a saboteur to enter the USSR. The Counter Intelligence (OKR - Otdel Kontr Razvedki) Officer had informers who reported on fraternization with the local population.

3. [redacted], two to three AWOLs were caught each month. [redacted] more went AWOL without being detected.

4. Border Guard Troops officers' leaves were 30 days annually, plus travel time. Some officers on distant posts in the Far East received 45 days, plus travel time. Leave had to be taken all at once, and could be spent in the USSR only. All officers received leaves; [redacted] not know what percentage could be away on leave at one time.

EM received leave only in very rare cases, and they hardly ever received any passes. In regard to leaves, 10 days of leave plus travel time were given to the best soldiers in political training or all-round training. The battalion CO had the authority to give a total of 10 such leaves annually.

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EM could also get compassionate leaves for death, calamity, or disaster in the family, but such leaves had to be initiated and checked by the area military authority (Rayvoyenkomat), and were very hard to get. About five such leaves were given [redacted] annually. EM, upon recovering from a protracted hospital illness, could get a short recovery leave, but this had to be initiated by the hospital authorities.

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Source knew that EM were dissatisfied with this leave policy, but none dared to voice any official complaint. Such a complaint would be useless, and would only label the man an "Enemy of the State".

5. Specific instances of poor discipline, as known to source, were:

a. An average of three men from the battalion of 380 men were held in the guardhouse. [redacted] three men of the battalion were in the guardhouse; one for drunkenness, one for refusal to go on duty, and one for going AWOL.

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b. About five percent of the officers and EM drank to excess.

c. [redacted]

[redacted] from Apr 49 to Nov 51, about five or six men from a unit of 500 men contracted VD. [redacted]

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d. Men on the border had to be coerced to stand guard longer than eight hours daily, which was supposed to be the normal tour of duty in a 24-hour period. Generally there were no direct refusals to obey orders. Most border guards had 10-14 hours of guard duty in a 24-hour period.

e. Political officers and unit COs frequently received directives from MVD Headquarters, directing them to improve morale of EM. Each month, unit COs and the political officers separately submitted a report to MVD Headquarters on unit morale and all incidents which occurred during the month.

6. The EM did not resent officer privileges because all men who had seven to 10 years of school had the opportunity to attend NCO schools and then officer schools.

7. In source's opinion, medical care was sufficient. Officers, however, were very dissatisfied with the absence of PX stores at isolated border areas and the fact that they had to buy food for their families at very high prices in free markets.

Recreational facilities were very unsatisfactory. In [redacted]

EM had very little free time for recreation. Officers had a club and could go to the movies. The main recreation for officers and EM [redacted] was hunting. This was, however, not part of the envisaged recreational training, but was simply due to abundance of wild boar, goats, and pigs in a hilly border area where no other persons were permitted to hunt (see report [redacted])

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[redacted] that three guards of the [redacted] es-  
 caped to Afghanistan, two in 1950 and one in 1951. All of the  
 escapees were captured and returned to Soviet authorities, but  
 their fate was not revealed. Source never discussed the fate  
 of deserters with political officers or with the indigenous  
 population.

50X1 [redacted] from 1949-51, [redacted] Soviet de-  
 serters broadcast on VOA. These men stated that they were  
 treated well by the Western authorities and were engaged in the  
 fight against "Communism".

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50X1 For further information regarding morale factors, see  
 [redacted]

## B. FRATERNIZATION, GENERAL

All information on fraternization pertinent to Border Guard  
 Troops inside the USSR was given in subpar A 3, above.

## C. SECURITY

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### 1. Unit Designation

50X1 No unit equipment or unclassified documents were  
 [redacted] or unit designation. Classified corres-  
 pondence was marked [redacted]

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50X1 b. [redacted] learned of the designation of other units  
 from conversations with other officers. [redacted] never saw any equip- 50X1  
 ment or unclassified correspondence marked with the designation  
 of other units.

### 2. Security Duties

50X1 a. The [redacted] had the mission of guard-  
 ing the Soviet frontier (see annex B to report [redacted], A 50X1  
 separate report describing electrical detection devices and  
 showing the physical layout of the border area will be published  
 at a later date.

50X1 b. No one, military or civilian, was permitted in the  
 restricted area running about 10 - 20 km. deep, parallel to the  
 border. In 1953, the CG of the [redacted] 50X1  
 [redacted] and some officers on his staff went hunting in the  
 restricted border zone. They were detained by guards and  
 turned over to a battalion CO at battalion headquarters. They  
 were released only after the CO was satisfied with their iden-  
 tity.

On several other occasions, senior officers  
 (colonels and lieutenant colonels) of the [redacted] were 50X1  
 detained while hunting in the restricted zone and escorted to  
 battalion headquarters by guards.

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During [ ] service with the [ ]  
no Soviet personnel that [ ] defected from  
the USSR.

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[ ] two Afghans entered the USSR. They  
managed to thwart the electrical detection devices and were not  
caught by patrols. However, as they were dressed in strange  
clothing, one was noticed five to six kilometers inside the  
USSR by informers, in the territory of the [ ]  
[ ] and reported to [ ] Hq. The other one was  
noticed 1 1/2 km inside the USSR by a [ ] officer  
who happened to be in the area. The men were detained and sent  
under escort to the district headquarters. [ ] was not  
present at the interrogation, and did not know their fate.

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[ ] members of any foreign army  
would likewise be detained and taken to higher headquarters for  
disposal. Questioned on the action in the hypothetical case of  
an Afghan guard accidentally entering Soviet territory, dis-  
covering his error, and trying to return to his own country,  
[ ] that the man would be detained, and fired upon  
if he refused to halt when so ordered. [ ] if a  
guard were to shoot the man, the guard would have to make sure  
that the corpse was lying on Soviet territory, even if it had  
to be carried there.

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### 3. Foreign Nationals

No foreign nationals were employed [ ]

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### 4. Military Intelligence Section

Border districts had an intelligence section (see sub-  
par 7 a, [ ]). [ ] not recall the names of  
any officers of the Intelligence Sec, Turkmen Border District.

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The intelligence section of a detachment was described  
in subpar 4 b (1), report [ ]. The intelligence section  
of a battalion was described in subpar 3 b (3), report [ ].

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In addition, district headquarters, detachments, and  
battalions had OKR officers. The OKR officers had their own  
chain of command. The Chief OKR Officer in a border district  
was subordinate to and reported directly to OKR, Main Adminis-  
tration of MVD, MOSCOW. The OKR Officer in a detachment head-  
quarters was subordinate to and reported to the Chief OKR  
Officer of the district. The battalion OKR Officer was sub-  
ordinate to and reported to the detachment OKR Officer.

[ ] could not recall the name of the Chief OKR  
Officer or the composition of his staff in the [ ]  
District. The Chief OKR Officer, [ ]

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He had two to three officers on his  
staff. The OKR Officer for the [ ]

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OKR Officers, also called Operational Agents (Upolnomo-  
chenny), checked that no border personnel were recruited by  
foreign powers, and that none intended desertion, made anti-  
state remarks, or had contact with the indigenous population,  
etc.

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These officers were attached for administration to [redacted] at district, detachment, and battalion levels. They had a net of secret informers (SEKSOT - Sekretnyy Sotrudnik). [redacted] here were quite a few officers and EM recruited by the OKR Officer, [redacted]

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5. MVD-MGB

[redacted] no information on MVD-MGB troops in the Soviet Zone of Germany. About 10-12 MGB officers were assigned to the East German Garrisoned People's Police in [redacted] as "advisors" (see par 3, report [redacted])

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For information known [redacted] on MVD-MGB units, see [redacted]

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6. Arrest

Border Guard Troops could arrest any officer, EM, Civilian, official, or Militiaman caught in the restricted border zone.

In the town [redacted] army Kommandatura patrols had the right to detain disorderly [redacted] personnel. Officers would pick up the detained personnel and administer the proper punishment, usually five to 15 days in the guard-house.

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7. Document Sections

The [redacted] had no secret documents sections, but each section had a safe of its own, with classified documents. [redacted] gave the following information on these sections, the officers who were custodians of the safes-documents, and the classified documents they had:

<u>Officer</u>	<u>Duty</u>	<u>Contents of Safe</u>
[redacted]	Chief, Intelligence Sec.	Personal files of informers; Work files with reports of informers; Files of investigations and interrogations; Various correspondence and work schedules; Directives from higher intelligence channels.
	Chief of Staff	Directives and regulations on border service; Order 0413 (How to set up detection devices); Correspondence.
	Senior Deputy Chief of Staff	Personal files of officers and EM; T/O & E charts; Orders and directives on training; Administrative data.

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<u>Officer</u>	<u>Duty</u>	<u>Contents of Safe</u>
<div></div>	Political Officer	Various political documents, exact contents unknown.
	Supply Officer	Various accounts of clothes, equipment, food, supplies, etc.
	Cryptography Officer	Codes, ciphers, etc.
	Radio Officer	Various signal data.

None of the safes had combination locks. Most were built-in key locks, plus a few key padlocks. Each night, the keyholes were covered with a wax seal to prevent tampering.

Two to three armed EM, or an officer escorted by two armed men, acted as couriers.

saw all classified documents addressed to his unit. The documents were placed in brown manila envelopes with threads through them. The ends of the threads were sealed with wax and stamped in such a manner that any tampering could be easily noticed. Documents were classified "Top Secret", "Secret", and "For Official Use".

The battalion Chief of Staff received classified correspondence from detachments headquarters, and he opened all classified correspondence. He kept a log book, where all incoming and outgoing classified documents were entered and their disposition or whereabouts indicated.  read all classified documents and referred them for action to the pertinent department. The battalion CO and all department heads had log books for all incoming and outgoing classified documents which they handled.

Some documents addressed directly to the Political Officer were shown to . We did not see any classified documents addressed to the CMA Officer.

8. Civilian Clothes

MVD male and female officers and EW, were permitted to wear civilian clothes off duty. MVD EM could not wear civilian clothes at any time.

During the resettlement drives in 1943-1944, when ethnic groups were exiled to Siberia, Border Guard Troops wore Soviet Army field uniforms. In 1953, Border Guard Troops were not permitted to wear any uniform except the regular issue Border Guard uniform.

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9. Foreign Broadcasts

50X1 [redacted] source heard VOA and BBC broadcasts at 0100 MOSCOW time. He did not remember the wave-length. Reception was poor due to jamming. He was impressed by the broadcasts, and believed them. A separate report will be published on this subject.

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